

Preparing Alpaca Fleece for Fleece Shows

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Shearing Day

- Clean the fleece before shearing – pick out debris but do not disturb lock structure
- Take care while shearing to eliminate second cuts as much as possible
- If not skirting immediately, cut open plastic bags and lay sheared fleece on bag and then carefully store in another clear plastic bag so fleece remains whole and intact

Skirting the Fleece

Lay out fleece on skirting table - **cut side up**

- Gently bounce fleece to remove dust
- Remove second cuts
- Test fiber for soundness by snapping lock of fiber between hands to check for tender breaks
- Remove any leg/neck/belly fiber around edges that is not same quality as prime blanket
- Remove small spots of another color (unless entering in Multicolor Class)
- Remove any fiber less than 3"

Turn fleece over – **cut side down**

- Gently pick out debris being careful not to disturb fleece character or stretching fiber
- Remove all pinecones, sticks, burrs, dung tags, urine stains, etc.

Displaying the Fleece

Huacaya fleece – displayed cut side out

- With cut side of fleece down, fold fleece in 'butcher' style so edges are folded into center
- Carefully put fleece into clear bag
- Best part of cut side should be at top of the bag

Suri fleece - displayed cut side in

- With cut side of fleece up, fold fleece in 'butcher' style so edges are folded into center
- Carefully put fleece into clear bag
- Best part of cut side should be at top of the bag

Reminders:

- Only prime fleece should be included in show fleece (leg/neck fiber should have same quality and length as blanket fleece if it is included in show fleece)
- Keep record of shearing date for registration (must be shown within 380 days from shear date)
- Fleece must be free of parasites
- No washing fleece or trimming/blocking fleece
- Minimum length - 3" (huacaya & suri fleeces)
- Huacaya maximum length – 8" for fleece sheared on first birthday & older
- Suri maximum length – 9" for fleece sheared on second birthday & older
- Only clear bags allowed for shows
- Review show's rules (AOBA, International Show, etc.)